

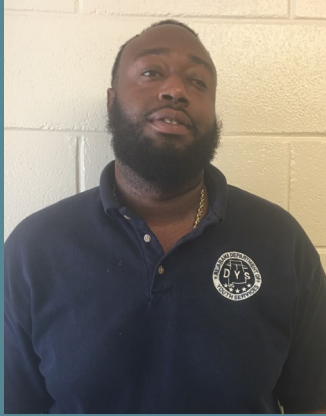
JULY EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES

August 2021 Newsletter

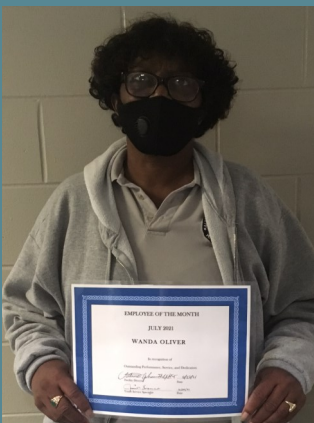
MT. MEIGS CAMPUS Mr. Fredrick Moncrief



AUTAUGA CAMPUS Mr. Abe Longmire



VACCA CAMPUS Ms. Wanda Oliver



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It was my hope that August would bring an opportunity to relax our COVID-19 precautions but unfortunately that will not be possible. The high transmission rate of the Delta variant necessitates our continued precautions through Labor Day at least. I recently read an update from AL Public Health that indicated that of the 2379 COVID-19 deaths reported between January 19th and June 30th, only 25 were fully vaccinated. Recently, Alabama was identified as the state with the lowest vaccination rate and the highest positivity rate. If you have not been vaccinated, I would encourage you to educate yourself about the vaccines and consider getting immunized as soon as possible. In addition, I would like to remind you of our precautions on DYS operated facilities:

- Masks must be worn by students and staff/ teachers while indoors.
- Continue to wash hands and disinfect areas frequently.
- Continue to social distance to the best of our ability within our facilities.
- COVID-19 tests are available to staff upon request and approval.
- Continue increased phone calls to family and limit in-person family visits.
- I would urge you to stay home if you are not feeling well or may have symptoms associated with COVID-19.

On another note, DYS like so many other employers, has been challenged in hiring and retaining staff. This is true across our state and country in juvenile justice. Please know that we are working very hard to hire quality staff and to incentivize existing employees. We also must consider all available options during this challenging time to maintain ratios and staff and student safety.

I thank you for your commitment to your job duties during these challenging times. I would also like to remind us all of the importance of consistency and accountability within our areas of responsibility.

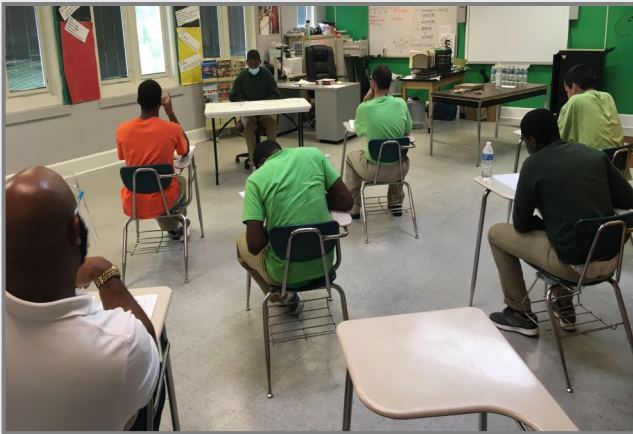
In Appreciation,

Executive Director

Vacca Youth Executive League Update

On July 16, 2021 the Vacca Youth Executive League (YEL) interviewed new applicants. The student led interviews provided an opportunity for the YEL members to take ownership in the interview process and to practice interview skills. The students that led the interviews expressed appreciation for being provided the opportunity to interview their peers and have input into the selection process.

Mr. Sudbury also shared with the members that the YEL is being registered with the Student Government Association at the national level. The students were excited about the recognition and scholarship opportunities.



New Ideas for Programming Suggested by the Students



Bible Study

Movie Nights

Art Activities

Sports Tournaments

Karaoke

Staff/Student Events



Feedback from Interviewees

- "I want everyone to get along and it be safer."
- "I want to see more activities on campus."
- "Staff act like they have attitudes. It is hard to communicate with them."
- "We need more to do, if we have something to look forward to less people will get in trouble."
- "Staff are rude, I would like that to change."
- "I would like to come out longer in the dorm."
- "Unfair treatment from staff. They will let some people horse play without saying anything and others get written up."
- "I would like to see the bullying stop."
- "I would want fighting and gang activity to stop."
- "I want to help my peers."
- "I want to help change things on campus"
- "I want staff and students to get along better and do activities together."
- "I want to have tournaments like basketball, soft ball, and football."
- "I want to make the campus better."

DYS Highlights

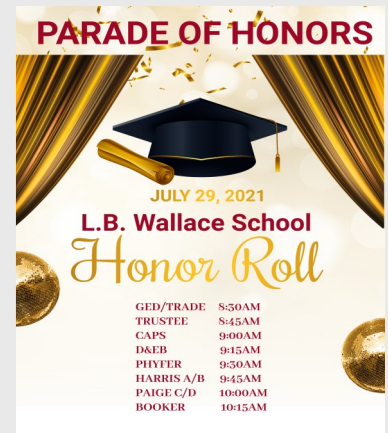
Vacca Campus Hosts Event for Staff Appreciation



On July 21st, Vacca's leadership team expressed appreciation for all of the hard work provided by the campus staff. The Vacca leadership team provided donuts and beverages to the staff and students in the dormitory units.

Mt. Meigs L.B. Wallace School Celebrates Honor Students

The Mt. Meigs campus staff and teachers participated in a "Parade of Honors" to celebrate and congratulate the Mt. Meigs honors students. Teachers and staff walked to the dorms and trade area to acknowledge the hard work of the students!



DYS Staff Participate in the MANDT Train the Trainer Program

From Monday, July 12th through Thursday, July 15th, DYS staff participated in the MANDT Train the Trainer Program. On Monday the training focuses on de-escalation strategies and on Tuesday the DYS staff conducted teach back presentations. On Wednesday and Thursday, staff participated in physical skills which included basic and advanced skills. On Friday, a select group participated in learning enhanced safety techniques. The DYS staff training on MANDT will be in October and will be provided by the DYS staff who participated in the Train the Trainer Program.

